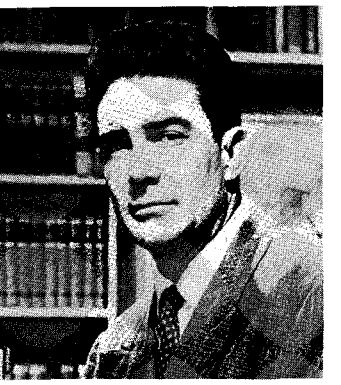
THE
Dan Smoot Report

Vol. 8, No. 49 (Broadcast 382) December 3, 1962 Dallas, Texas



DAN SMOOT

CENSORSHIP: WEAPON OF DICTATORS

Governmental control of information which reaches and influences the public is *the* essential tool of dictatorship. In a complete dictatorship, the control is as nearly total as officialdom can make it: government either owns, or supervises, all broadcasting facilities, and all publishers — of newspapers, magazines, books, and so on. In communist countries, private mail is censored; and an internal "informer" system severely limits the dissemination of uncensored information through the medium of private conversation, even among friends and in families.

Customarily, communist dictators make no apologies or pretenses about censorship. Faith in all-powerful government is the primary principle of communism-socialism; government must have absolute power to control and manage the lives of all the people in order to promote the general welfare of all. Censorship is merely one of the tools which the dictatorship of the proletariat must have and use, if it is to eliminate all opposition to the socialist plans for a perfect socialist society.

Faith in all-powerful government has also become the primary principle of "liberalism" in the United States: government must have unlimited power to make decisions — to manage the lives of all the people in order to promote the general welfare of all. Hence, ever since liberals have controlled the Presidency (that is, since 1933), every President has extensively used this essential weapon of dictatorship: *control of information which reaches and influences the public.*

For the most part, government has not tried to control the press, because "freedom of the press" is one of the clear guarantees in our Bill of Rights, and a deeply cherished principle of our society.

THE DAN SMOOT REPORT, a magazine published every week by The Dan Smoot Report, Inc., mailing address P. O. Box 9538, Lakewood Station, Dallas 14, Texas, Telephone TAylor 1-2303 (Office Address 6441 Gaston Avenue). Subscription rates: $10.00 a year, $6.00 for 6 months, $3.00 for 3 months, $18.00 for two years. For first class mail $12.00 a year; by airmail (including APO and FPO) $14.00 a year. Reprints of specific issues: 1 copy for 25¢; 6 for $1.00; 50 for $5.50; 100 for $10.00 — each price for bulk mailing to one person. Add 2% sales tax on all orders originating in Texas for Texas delivery.

Copyright by Dan Smoot, 1962. Second class mail privilege authorized at Dallas, Texas.
No reproductions permitted.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Government control of public information has been exercised in subtle ways not perceptible to the general public: by tax rulings which grant tax-exemption for opinion-forming organizations approved by officialdom, but which withhold the exemption from those not approved — for example.

Commercial advertising is one of the most powerful means of influencing public opinion in the United States. Hence, government (through tax laws and rulings and by other means) has exercised a dangerous degree of control over this medium, by encouraging advertising which reflects the "correct" political ideology, discouraging advertising which reflects a "wrong" attitude.

Government has also effected extensive control over the press through the voluntary cooperation of editors and publishers who run the nation's newspapers and magazines. The Council on Foreign Relations is the controlling center of a network of tax-exempt organizations whose key members have become the invisible government of the United States — an elite group of men whose power and influence control not only the policies of government, but also the policies of the major media of mass communications and of other opinion-forming agencies in our society.[1]

These powerful means of controlling the information which reaches and influences the public were, generally, enough to meet the needs of Roosevelt, Truman, and Eisenhower — but not for Kennedy. In the Cuban crisis, President Kennedy revealed that his attitude about governmental control of public information is identical with that of Khrushchev.

Examine a few specifics which document these broad allegations about censorship and dictatorship in the United States.

A Censorship Miracle: Transformation of Khrushchev

Following the Cuban quarantine announcement, on October 22, 1962, the Kennedy Administration imposed the most complete blackout on factual news that has ever been imposed in this country. Even during World War II and the Korean war, news services were permitted to have reporters at or near front lines and in critical zones of operation so that the public would have a reasonably accurate picture of what was happening.

Kennedy sealed his Cuban action off completely from public view. The public was allowed to get only such information as Kennedy's aides handed out in Washington. Much, if not most, of what they handed out was dishonest and misleading.

On October 29, 1962, Arthur Sylvester (Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs) admitted that the Kennedy Administration was giving the public false information about Cuba. Mr. Sylvester said this practice is proper "management" and "control" of the news. He said that government news reports are a,

"part of the weaponry that a President has in the application of military force and related forces to the solution of political problems, or to the application of international political pressure. . . . In the kind of world we live in, the generation of news by actions taken by the Government becomes one weapon in a strained situation. The results, in my opinion, justify the methods we used."[2]

This manipulation of the news was intended to convince the voting public that Kennedy was taking a firm stand against the communist danger in Cuba.

On October 31, 1962, the Washington *Evening Star* made editorial comment on Kennedy's "management" of the news:

"No newspaper correspondents were permitted on the scene. The traditional facilities usually provided for that purpose were denied, for reasons obviously phony. So Mr. Sylvester and his cohorts — carrying out orders, we are sure — were left in control of what was to be printed. . . .

"It subsequently was revealed that only those portions of the news were made available by Mr. Sylvester which he and other

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

omniscient manipulators of public opinion decided, in their infinite wisdom, would best serve to create the 'image' of this country's activities they wished to manufacture and place before our people and the world. . . .

"Mr. Sylvester may have overlooked one likely result of 'the methods we used.' This result is that Mr. Sylvester and his superiors, from this time on, are suspect. . . . What they say . . . may be the truth. But that truth will be accepted with a grain of salt.

"The 'kind of world we live in' seems now to be a world in which the truth given the American people . . . is that part of the truth selected by officialdom to piece together a desirable image."

On November 3, 1962, *The Miami Herald* reported that Joseph Fortier, Supervising Customs Agent for the Bureau of Customs office in Miami, had been ordered by Washington "to give out no more information to the public on seizures or other news events, military in nature or not."

Mr. Fortier said he got the order on November 1, 1962, after Washington officials read a *Herald* story describing a seizure of guns which 10 Cuban refugees had taken aboard a small boat. Customs Agent Fortier and all other U. S. Bureau of Customs personnel must henceforth funnel such stories to a newly hired Director of Information for the Customs Bureau in Washington — Arthur Satelle.

Why this censorship of news about Customs activities in Miami? The President was manipulating news to create the impression that he was taking a strong stand against Castro. He did not want the public to know that he was taking his strongest stand against Cuban patriots, who were trying, with valor and inadequate resources, to free their country, while the United States Navy enforced a ridiculous quarantine — by such methods as hailing Soviet ships to *ask* the captains what they were carrying, and accepting Soviet assurances about the identity of canvas-covered objects aboard communist ships!

At a news conference on November 20, 1962, President Kennedy announced that the Cuban quarantine was being lifted immediately, because Khrushchev had promised to get bombers and other "offensive" weapons out of Cuba, within thirty days.[3] There was no hint, in the President's tone or words, of any doubt about the reliability of a Khrushchev promise. On October 22, when making his election-eve announcement about Cuba, Kennedy had called Khrushchev's ambassador (and, therefore, by implication, Khrushchev himself) a liar.

The implication of these circumstances is that between October 22 and November 20, Liar Khrushchev was converted into Statesman Khrushchev whose word can be taken as a guarantee of security for 185 million Americans. But the American public knows nothing about the events which effected this miraculous transformation: all we know is what Kennedy has permitted us to know.

Censorship By Bribery

In connection with the Mississippi tragedy — the national disaster immediately preceding the Cuban affair — Robert F. Kennedy, Attorney General, publicly discussed another New Frontier method of manipulating public opinion: bribery and extortion with tax money.

On October 7, 1962, *The Sunday Times*, in London, published an interview with Robert F. Kennedy, quoting the Attorney General as saying:

"I have been talking this week to the top executives of 40 important business firms whose central offices are not in the South, but who have branches and investments in Mississippi, and have asked them to use their influence, either by persuasion or by threatening to curtail their investments in Mississippi, but I doubt whether it will have much of an effect. . . .

"I have recently talked to two publishers whose newspaper chains include newspapers in Alabama, to try and infuse some sanity in their readers, but it is very difficult to change the climate if most media of communication are working against you. . . .

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

"The federal government is spending about 650 million dollars in Mississippi, even though the state pays only 350 million dollars in federal taxes. There are possibilities of withholding some federal money from Mississippi, but it's a lever that must be handled with great delicacy."(4)

In telling how the Kennedy Administration uses the promise of tax money to persuade, and the threat of withholding tax money to intimidate, Robert Kennedy speaks as an expert. It was the Attorney General primarily who perfected the strategy of using the public purse as a club to force Congress to do the will of the President, and to persuade businessmen to put pressures on Congress toward that end — a strategy which the Kennedys have ruthlessly employed in every major legislative battle, from the packing of the House Rules Committee in January, 1961, to enactment of the Trade Expansion Act in September, 1962.

As a recognized leader among liberals, Robert Kennedy, in his London *Times* interview, also provides an example of the double standard of liberalism.

In communities throughout the United States, patriots have begun to boycott stores handling merchandise imported from communist countries. Many leading "liberals" denounce the boycotts as "vicious economic reprisals" by "bigoted right-wing extremists."

I have seen no liberal denunciation of the Kennedys for using tax money to effect economic reprisals (and bribery as well) against the citizens and state of Mississippi.

Advertising Censorship

An early *major* victory for socialists and communists who had infiltrated Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal was the Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933. Dishonestly lobbied through Congress as a flood-control and navigation measure, the TVA Act was intended to begin the socialization of the electrical power industry as a first step toward socialization of all basic industries.

Some leaders in the power industry opposed the TVA scheme initially; but, soon after TVA became an established fact, the power industry, generally, went along to get along.

Other "river-development" projects followed; and, before long, the federal government owned approximately 25% of all electrical power producing facilities in the nation; and the drive toward total "nationalization" was relentless.

The private power companies were in a precarious position. Their tax money was being used to build, and pay for the operating losses of, competing government power plants. Moreover, their tax money was being used to pay for government propaganda intended to convince the people that tax-paying private power companies are greedy monopolies which oppress the public, while tax-consuming government power "authorities" are public benefactors.

Since money confiscated from them by the federal tax collectors was being used to discredit their industry in order to justify socialization, certain leaders in the private power industry eventually decided to use some of their money to give the public their side of the story. Pooling the advertising resources of several private firms, they started running advertisements in national publications, telling the public about the importance of America's Independent Electric Light and Power Companies.

A typical ad by the power companies covers a full page in a national magazine.

The top half of the page bears the picture of a handsome little boy, about 5, gazing winsomely at four objects on a desk: a Bible, a key, a pencil, and a ballot.

Beneath the picture, this question is headlined: "Will You Leave These Freedoms to Your Children?"

The text of the advertisement, taking up the remainder of the page, says:

"Men have died to leave you these four symbols of freedom:

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

"A Holy Bible — symbol of your right to worship as you wish (First Amendment, U. S. Constitution).

"A door key — your right to lock your door against illegal government force and prying (Fourth Amendment, U. S. Constitution).

"A pencil — freedom to speak or write what you think whether you agree with the government or not (First Amendment, U. S. Constitution).

"And a free ballot — your right to choose the people who represent you in government — your protection against government tyranny (Article 1, U. S. Constitution).

"Half the world is trying to destroy these 4 symbols and what they stand for.

"Even in this country, there are people who threaten our freedoms, by trying to give the U. S. government more and more control over American life.

"They have a start — already the government runs hundreds of different kinds of business in competition with its own citizens. And you read about proposals that government take over even more.

"The electric light and power business, for example. The federal government already runs some of it. And Congress is being pressed to take over still more. Even though every such step leads down the road to socialism, one thing most Americans don't want.

"If socialism comes to America this way — step by step — you'll never have a chance to vote for or against it. For by that time, government will control your job, your independence, your thinking. Then what freedoms will you be able to pass on to your children?"[5]

The companies which pay for such ads charge the cost off as business advertising expense.

On May 26, 1952, Harry S. Truman, then President of the United States, held up just such a full-page magazine ad as I have described, waved it at an applauding audience, and called it "vicious," "evil," and "illegal." Mr. Truman said:

"This private power propaganda takes the line that government development of electric resources is socialism. The private power companies are spending millions and millions of dollars on this campaign. And the tax collections of the government are not so great because they charge these ads off as expenses of operation.

"I think I will ask the attorney general to take a look at this situation and see if the corrupt practices act doesn't apply."[6]

Truman's Secretary of the Interior, Oscar Chapman, was present; and so was Senator Lister Hill of Alabama. Both made speeches supporting Truman's point of view: condemning private power companies and urging rapid expansion of government-owned power facilities.

There was not one tax-paying organization represented in the audience which applauded these fair-deal worthies. President Truman and Secretary Chapman and Senator Hill were speaking to a Washington conference of Electric Consumers, sponsored by AFL and CIO unions, by the National Farmers Union, and by rural electric cooperatives.[6]

After Truman left Washington, Estes Kefauver — Democrat Senator from Tennessee — led the fight against the institutional advertising of private power companies.

Kefauver put pressure on the Internal Revenue Service to disallow the cost of the advertising, as a legitimate business expense; but the Internal Revenue Service, under the administrative law governing IRS operations, could not comply. It was necessary to change the administrative law. This was done.

On July 10, 1956, the Internal Revenue Service published in the *Federal Register* a new regulation which could be interpreted, if the Service wished, to disallow almost any kind of "institutional" advertising which tax agents do not approve. In other words, the Internal Revenue Service merely wrote itself a new law, by-passing the Congress.

Under constant prodding from Senator Kefauver, the Internal Revenue Service made a "study" of advertising by electric power companies.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

On February 13, 1958, Russell C. Harrington (then Eisenhower's Commissioner of Internal Revenue) notified Senator Kefauver that the desired ruling had been made: private power companies could not claim advertising expense for the cost of telling the public about the virtues of private enterprise.[6]

At about that same time (February, 1958), the Tennessee Valley Authority distributed nationally a promotion "news kit" (which cost taxpayers at least $100,000.00) telling the public about the virtues of socialized enterprise.[7]

On March 18, 1958, the United States Supreme Court, in considering a tax case, ruled:

"Amounts expended to lease premises and hire employees for the conduct of illegal gambling enterprises are deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code."[8]

Crooks may deduct, as legitimate expense, costs involved in running illegal gambling houses; but private power companies may not deduct the cost of telling the public the truth about socialism and free enterprise!

The 1958 IRS ruling against the advertisements of electrical power companies has not yet been enforced. This *Report, The Saturday Evening Post,* and a few other publications publicized the matter, arousing public protest; and the IRS backed away from Commissioner Harrington's new ruling. The private power companies are still sponsoring, to some extent, their advertisements.

Meanwhile, the Internal Revenue Service has quietly disallowed the advertising expenditures of individual companies in other industries, which have sponsored ads extolling the virtues of free enterprise and criticizing government ownership. Some companies involved have protested this tax treatment, but want no publicity of their cases while litigation, or final decision, is pending.

Liberals are both resourceful and tenacious. They like to consider administrative law as law of the land, because this enables the bureaucracy to by-pass Congress and write its own laws. But when an administrative law evokes strong public criticism, the bureaucracy often contrives to get its administrative law sanctioned by Congress.

Observe:

In 1956, the IRS wrote an administrative law which could be used as a censorship weapon against institutional advertising reflecting a "wrong" political attitude. In 1958, this law was invoked against the institutional advertising of electrical power companies. Public criticism followed, and enforcement was suspended. In 1962, essential provisions of the 1956 administrative law were inserted as a paragraph in the Revenue Act. Now, Congress has "authorized" tax agents to disallow institutional advertising which they do not like.

Paragraph (1) of Section 3 of the Revenue Act of 1962 permits businessmen to deduct from income, as "ordinary and necessary [business] expenses," money spent on political lobbying,

"directly relating to appearances before, and communications with, a legislative body, legislative committee or individual legislator if the expenses are otherwise 'ordinary and necessary' . . . and are concerned with legislation or proposed legislation of direct interest to the taxpayer claiming the deduction or to organizations of which he is a member."[9]

But Paragraph (2) of Section 3 says that Paragraph (1),

"shall not be construed as allowing the deduction of any amount paid or incurred. . . . in connection with any attempt to influence the general public, or segments thereof, with respect to legislative matters, elections, or referendums."[10]

This Paragraph (2) is very similar in language and intent to the IRS administrative law of 1956.

The Revenue Act of 1962 encourages business expenditures to influence Congress directly, but discourages business expenditures that might influence the public to influence

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Congress. Why? Washington spenders of tax money do not want taxpayers influenced with any information except officially approved information.

The businessmen's testimony before legislative committees, as sanctioned in Paragraph (1), generally consists of precisely the testimony which the committee wants to hear: that is, it is in support of the spending legislation which the committee wants enacted. The businessmen who give the desired testimony (hoping for contracts to result from the proposed spending) can get tax deductions for their expenses.

Censorship By Executive Privilege

On January 21, 1954, Army Counsel John Adams was involved in a Justice Department-White House Staff meeting called by the Eisenhower Administration to plan its strategy of attack against Senator Joseph R. McCarthy (Republican, Wisconsin), who was trying to expose communist influence in the Army. When testifying before a Senate Committee (Army-McCarthy hearings) on May 14, 1954, Adams refused to reveal what was said at that January meeting — on the basis of Defense Department instructions.[11]

There was heavy pressure on the Defense Department to justify such an arbitrary and unprecedented secrecy order. President Eisenhower provided the "justification" by assuming full responsibility. In a letter to the Defense Department, dated May 17, 1954, Eisenhower outlined his doctrine of "executive privilege."[11] In effect, Eisenhower said that, in the interest of maintaining the constitutional principle of the separation of powers, the executive department was justified in withholding from Congress any information which the executive does not want Congress to have.

Eisenhower's doctrine of executive privilege has become a handy tool for keeping Congress and the people in ignorance of what is happening.

In February, 1956, Senator John L. McClellan's Permanent Investigating Subcomittee staff discovered,

"evidence that merchants of the free world are helping to build up Russia's military potential by furnishing it items which are indispensable in constructing or maintaining a war machine."[11]

Evidence relating to this charge was concealed from the subcommittee by government officials, claiming "executive privilege."

Since 1959, Representative Porter Hardy (Democrat, Virginia — Chairman of the House Foreign Operations and Monetary Affairs Sub-committee) has tried, in vain, to investigate allegations of graft, corruption, bribery, waste, and mismanagement in our muti-billion-dollar foreign-aid programs. The governmental officials whom he tries to question will give him no information. They invoke the doctrine of "executive privilege."

In March, 1961, Mr. Hardy was trying to investigate specific allegations of graft in our aid program in Peru. International Cooperation Administration and State Department employees, whom he called for information, brought a letter, from Secretary of State Dean Rusk, which said:

"I am writing this letter to instruct you that you are not authorized to testify concerning the contents of any files of the International Cooperation Administration or the Office of the Inspector General and Comptroller in the Department of State which relates to an investigation into charges of misconduct on the part of individuals or corporate persons or, more generally, to testify concerning any matter involved in such an investigation carried on by the International Cooperation Administration or the Office of the Inspector General and Comptroller in the Department of State."[11]

On February 8, 1962, President Kennedy, invoking the doctrine of executive privilege, ordered the Defense Department to withhold, from the Senate Special Preparedness Subcommittee, information concerning the censoring of anti-communist passages in the speeches of military officers.[12]

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

But the Preparedness Subcommittee did learn enough for Senator Strom Thurmond to say (at the close of his 157-page section in the Subcommittee's 203-page report, submitted October 19, 1962):

"The State Department has made a concerted effort, to the limit of its power, to keep the facts [of the cold war] from both the Congress and the people and . . . to prevent a full and free discussion of the issues the Nation faces."(13)

What to Do?

Americans who believe in freedom and constitutional government will probably be once again ignored by both major political parties when candidates for the Presidency are selected in 1964. There is little prospect that constitutionalists will have a chance to vote for a President in the next general elections.

But in every congressional district in the United States, constitutionalists (if they would start now) could find, educate, and groom constitutionalist candidates to run for the U. S. House of Representatives in 1964. If constitutionalists could elect an effective majority in the House, they could save our Republic from the dictatorship which the Presidency is imposing on us, using censorship and tax money as weapons, in the same way that communist dictators use them.

The remedy lies in Congress — specifically, in the House of Representatives.

A House dominated by constitutionalists, would withhold appropriations from any governmental agency (including the Presidency) which refuses to give Congress necessary information about the conduct of public business.

Such a House would refuse to enact *any* legislation requested by *any* President who uses the kind of tactics the Kennedys use to force their legislative proposals through Congress.

Such a House would pass a resolution to submit an amendment to repeal the income tax amendment. The federal income tax system feeds the forces which government now uses to impose the will of the ruling elite on the people who pay the income tax. Eliminate the income tax system, and most of the weapons of dictatorship would be useless.

FOOTNOTES

(1) Dan Smoot, *The Invisible Government,* 1962
(2) *U. S. News & World Report,* November 12, 1962, p. 48
(3) *The Dallas Morning News,* November 21, 1962
(4) *The Shreveport Journal,* quoted from an editorial in *The Tulsa Tribune* by Jenkin Lloyd Jones, November 3, 1962
(5) *U. S. News & World Report,* August 29, 1958, p. 1
(6) *The Dan Smoot Report,* "Freedom and the IRS," September 8, 1958
(7) *The Dallas Morning News,* "IRS Ruling May Cause New Business Burdens," by Ray Tucker, May 20, 1958
(8) *Dunklin Democrat* (Kennett, Missouri), May 15, 1958
(9) *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report,* October 5, 1962, p. 1786
(10) Official government-printed House version of the tax bill, *H.R. 10650; 87th Congress, 2d Session,* p. 27
(11) *Washington Cover-up,* by Clark R. Mollenhoff (Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1962)
(12) For a detailed account of this particular controversy, see "Our No-Win Policy," this *Report,* April 2, 1962.
(13) *Military Cold War Education and Speech Review Policies; Report by Special Preparedness Subcommittee of the Committee on Armed Services; United States Senate (87th Cong., 2d Sess.),* 1962

WHO IS DAN SMOOT?

Dan Smoot was born in Missouri. Reared in Texas, he attended SMU in Dallas, taking BA and MA degrees from that university in 1938 and 1940.

In 1941, he joined the faculty at Harvard as a Teaching Fellow in English, doing graduate work for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the field of American Civilization.

In 1942, he took leave of absence from Harvard in order to join the FBI. At the close of the war, he stayed in the FBI, rather than return to Harvard.

He worked as an FBI Agent in all parts of the nation, handling all kinds of assignments. But for three and a half years, he worked exclusively on communist investigations in the industrial midwest. For two years following that, he was on FBI headquarters staff in Washington, as an Administrative Assistant to J. Edgar Hoover.

After nine and a half years in the FBI, Smoot resigned to help start the Facts Forum movement in Dallas. As the radio and television commentator for Facts Forum, Smoot, for almost four years spoke to a national audience giving both sides of great controversial issues.

In July, 1955, he resigned and started his own independent program, in order to give only one side — the side that uses fundamental American principles as a yardstick for measuring all important issues.

If you believe that Dan Smoot is providing effective tools for those who want to think and talk and write on the side of freedom, you can help immensely by subscribing, and encouraging others to subscribe, to *The Dan Smoot Report.*

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED